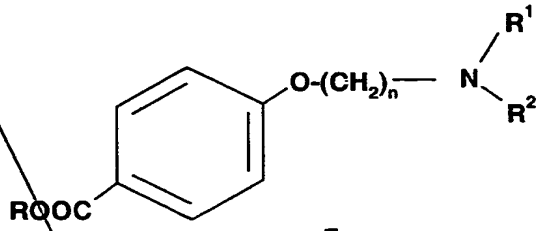
I claim:

1. A process for preparing a compound of formula I



I

wherein;

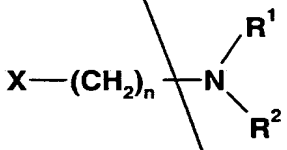
R is C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^1 and R^2 each are independently C_1-C_4 alkyl, or combine together with the nitrogen atom to which R^1 and R^2 are attached, to form piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, methylpyrrolidinyl, dimethylpyrrolidinyl, morpholino, or 1-hexamethyleneimino; and

n is 2 or 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises the step of:

reacting a haloalkyl amine of formula III

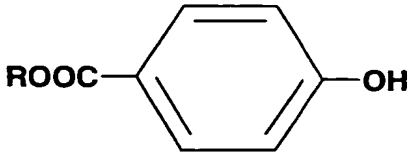


III

wherein;

X is a halogen; and

R^1, R^2, and n are as defined above, with a compound of formula IV



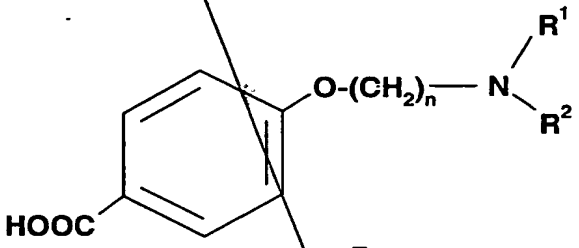
IV

wherein R is C_1-C_6 alkyl, in the presence of a hydrated inorganic base and an appropriate solvent.

2. The process according to Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

a) extracting the reaction product of Claim 1 with an aqueous acid; and optionally

b) cleaving the ester of the reaction product from step a) to form an acid compound of formula Ia



Ia

3. A process according to Claim 1 wherein the hydrated inorganic base is selected from the group consisting of potassium carbonate, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, calcium carbonate.

4. A process according to Claim 1 wherein the solvent is a C_1-C_6 alkyl acetate solvent selected from the

group consisting of amyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, isobutyl acetate and ethyl acetate.

5. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said C_1-C_6 alkyl acetate solvent is amyl acetate.

6. A process according to Claim 1 wherein said hydrated inorganic base is a carbonate or bicarbonate salt.

7. A process according to Claim 6 wherein said carbonate salt is potassium carbonate hydrated with 1-20% water.

8. A process according to Claim 7 wherein said hydrated potassium carbonate is achieved by adding bulk water.

9. A process according to Claim 7 wherein said hydrated potassium carbonate is achieved by water of hydration.

10. A process according to Claim 7 wherein said carbonate salt is potassium carbonate sesquihydrate.

11. A process according to Claim 1 wherein R^1 and R^2 combine together with the nitrogen atom to which R^1 and R^2 are attached, to form piperidinyl; and

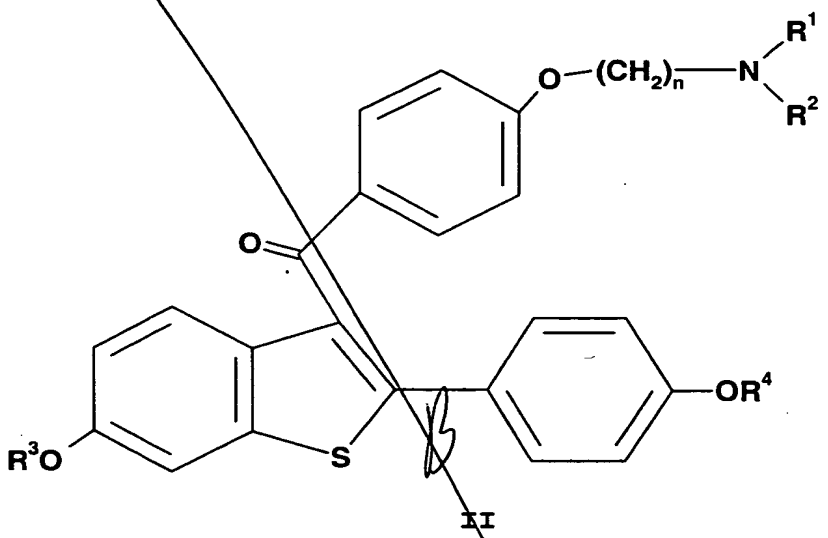
n is 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Sub B1

12. A process according to Claim 2 wherein said aqueous acid is hydrochloric acid.

13. A process according to Claim 2 for preparing compounds of formula II



II

wherein;

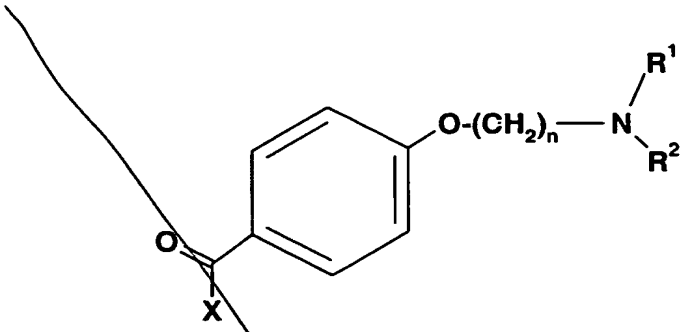
R^3 and R^4 are independently hydrogen or a hydroxy protecting group; and

R^1, R^2 and n are as defined above;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

comprising the steps of:

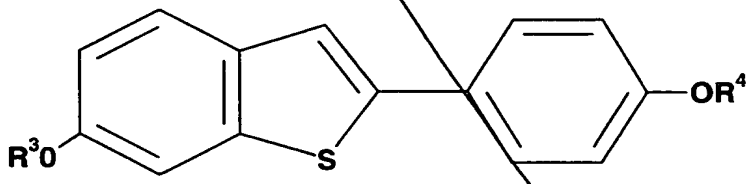
a) reacting a compound of formula I or Ia with an acyl halide forming agent to form a compound of formula V



V ;

wherein X is a halogen, and

b) reacting a compound of formula V with a compound of formula VI



VI

wherein R^3 and R^4 are as defined above, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A process according to Claim 1 or 13 wherein; R^1 and R^2 combine with the nitrogen atom to which R^1 and R^2 are attached, to form a piperidinyl moiety, R^3 and R^4 each are hydrogen, and n is 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or derivative thereof.